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BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR..... 1962

1962

BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

His Worship the Mayor..... Alderman B.C. Hunt.

The Deputy Mayor..... Alderman J.L. Carter.

Aldermen:-

D. Gent.

G.R.J. Haskett.

Councillors:-

T.W. Fowler.

G.O. Fry

T.L. Hughes.

Mrs. G.F. Lane

H.H. Macnally

W.E. Newsome

W.L. Penny

E.G. Riggs.

J. Trickett.

Miss A.A. Williams.

A.G.H. Woodward.

F. Wyatt.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch. B., B. Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer School Medical Officer.	5/11th of time.
Medical Officer of Health.	Borough of Blandford Forum.
Medical Officer of Health.	Blandford Rural District.
Medical Officer of Health.	Wimborne Minster Urban District.
Medical Officer of Health.	Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.

contributing roughly:-

Borough of Blandford Forum.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week
Blandford Rural District.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week
Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	$\frac{1}{3}$ day per week.
Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District..	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

H.L. Birkett. M.R.S.H. M.P.H.I.A.

Area Office,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne Minster.
Dorset.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1962, a year which witnessed great excitement elsewhere in the country from the several outbreaks of smallpox which occurred but which fortunately did not affect the Borough.

The Sabin poliomyelitis vaccine became available in February and despite the unnecessary doubts and suspicions which attended the introduction of the Salk vaccine, the Sabin vaccine, taken by mouth, proved an unqualified success and represented a triumph of vaccine production. It is all the more astounding that there are parents who refuse to allow their children to be protected even by this pleasant and innocuous method.

Meanwhile a quiet revolution has taken place in the sphere of diphtheria and whooping cough, no notification of the former having been received for many years, and gratifyingly few of the latter, thanks to the steady work behind the scenes of immunising babies and children. The vaccine against diphtheria and whooping cough is combined with one against tetanus, and this is increasingly rendering it unnecessary to routinely administer tetanus antitoxin to persons with even quite trivial wounds.

G.B. Hopkins.

December, 1963. Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough..... 253 acres.
Population as estimated by Registrar General.....3490 (mid year)
Total number of inhabited houses at 31/12/62.....1174
Rateable value at 1st April, 1962..... £50656
Product of penny rate at 1st April, 1962.....£193

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

				Comparative Statistics.		
LIVE BIRTHS.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Blandford.	England & Wales.	Administrative County
Total number registered..	64	40	24			
Legitimate.....	58	38	20			
Illegitimate.....	6	2	4			
Standardised rate.....				18.9.	16.7	15.8
STILLBIRTHS.						
Total number registered..	3	0	3			
DEATHS						
Total number registered..	61	34	27			
Standardised rate.....				12.8	11.9	13.3

Comparability Factors.
Births..... 1.03
Deaths..... 0.73

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from Castleman House.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory Service was created to enable Medical Officers of Health throughout the country to have free access to a Laboratory in connection with epidemological investigations and routine bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. The local laboratory is situated at Dorchester and provides an excellent scientific service.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic in Blandford once a fortnight, held in the Red Cross Hall. Work commenced on modern clinic premises which will enable extension and diversification of services in the future.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The County Home Help Scheme provided a service in Blandford and surrounding district of well established utility.

PREVALANCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Measles..... 4
Food poisoning 1
Whooping cough..... 2

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases on the tuberculosis register was as follows:-

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Males.....	14	Males.....	2
Females.....	7	Females.....	1

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS.

POLIOMYELITIS						DIPHTHERIA.		WHOOPING COUGH.		TETANUS.		SMALLPOX	
	Oral.			Salk									
Basic Course.	3rd.	4th.	P.	3rd.	4th.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.
15	46	2	33	111	24	62	60	57	17	123	30	413	497

SECTION D
STATISTICAL TABLES FOR THE YEAR 1962.

	Causes of Death	Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
16.	Diabetes	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	5
18.	Coronary disease, angina	8	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	5	3
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	3
22.	Influenza	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	2	1
24.	Bronchitis	1	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	-	
34.	All other accidents	-	2
35.	Suicide	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	TOTALS	34	27

ADMINISTRATION.

The privately owned abattoir near the centre of the town closed down during the year thus releasing the public health inspector, Mr. Birkett, from his duties as meat inspector. He has subsequently been appointed as Housing Manager, a post which combines well with that of public health inspector.

VERMINOUS OR FILTHY PERSONS OR PREMISES.

No action became necessary.

FOOD POISONING.

One case only was notified.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Six incidents were reported of food to which Section 2 of this Act was applicable. They involved amongst other things wasps in cakes, one individual receiving two successive purchases thus contaminated. The cause transpired to be due to wasps having been trapped in a bulk flavouring syrup and it underlined the desirability of routine sieving of bulk products in baking practice wherever possible. Another case was that of a cockroach in a loaf of bread, an incident which is calculated to upset a recipient from the peculiarly intense revulsion most people have at the thought of actually biting such an offensive insect. The loaf was baked outside the district, and steps were taken to improve conditions in the bakery responsible.

Warning letters were issued to the traders concerned in these incidents.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Inspection of all premises where food is prepared or sold continue to be carried out on a regular basis, and the following improvements were effected:-

Hot water supplies, new sinks and impervious surfaces to bar counters and shelves in three hotels.

Hot water supplies to wash hand basins, redecoration and other improvements in five cafes.

New flooring in three butchers' shops. Redecoration in four food shops. The Council also improved the catering facilities at the Corn Exchange where important functions are held.

ICE CREAM

No manufacturing is carried out. 15 samples were submitted to the laboratory, 14 were graded one and one graded two.

This is very satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION

The following tables complete the history of meat inspection in the Borough:-

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected for six months, January to June, 1962

Steers.	Heifers.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
330	313	28	1	11	438

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT.

Condemned during the six months - January to June 1962:-

For diseases other than T.B.	Offal.....	1,762 lbs
For diseases other than T.B.	Part carcass meat.....	162 lbs
For diseases other than T.B.	Whole carcass meat.....	Nil
For tuberculosis.	Offal.....	190 lbs
For tuberculosis.	Part carcass meat.....	253 lbs
For tuberculosis.	Whole carcass meat.....	Nil

Number of animals affected with Cysticercus Bovis..... 6

FOOD CONDEMNED

8 tins cooked meats.
9½ lbs biscuits.
20 lbs margarine
20 lbs meat.

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

My last report commented upon the necessity for myself and a general practitioner to attend an emergency court in connection with a sick woman. The court upheld the application for this person to be cared for in an institution, and she remained therein for many months, finally taking her discharge, very greatly improved in health, though not cured. Unfortunately, she returned to a house which the Council had been endeavouring to close as unfit for occupation for several months previously. After a few months she sustained a fracture whenshe tripped on irregular flooring and had to return to hospital. She again returned to the house, and after much difficulty was persuaded to accept the tenancy of a delightful old persons bungalow a few yards away from her erstwhile home and has since remained in this accommodation, so very much more suited to her needs.

WATER SUPPLY

Full details have been given in previous reports and no change has occurred, the water being satisfactory in quantity and quality.

A sample was submitted to the Public Analyst and was satisfactory except for an unusual tasted attributed to the 2 ppm of zinc present, apparently from corroded pipes in the particular establishment from which the sample was taken.

RAW WATER.	Total number of samples.	1.	2.	3.	4.
Black Lane.....	45	45	-	-	-
Blandford St. Mary..	26	26	-	-	-
DISTRIBUTED WATER.					
Black Lane.....	49	44	5	-	-
Blandford St. Mary.	88	78	8	1	1

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

This continued in operation and the season presented favourable conditions. Ten samples of water submitted for bacteriological examination yielded satisfactory results. Risks, however, remain, and it is greatly to be desired that alternative proposals for a new bath come to fruition in the near future.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

No action was necessary, there being very little pollution of air beyond domestic smoke in the Borough.

OVERCROWDING.

(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at 31/12/62.....	2
	Number of families therein.....	2
	Number of persons involved.....	15
(b)	Number of new cases reported.....	Nil
(c)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved.....	1
	Number of persons concerned.....	5
(d)	Number of renewed cases of overcrowding.....	Nil

REFUSE COLLECTION

This is on a weekly basis.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The old smoking tip continued in use while discussions continued with the Rural District Council on modern alternative means of disposal.
Consulting Engineers fees required to be partly met in connection with one investigation of a site for controlled tipping which transpired to be too small for a long term joint controlled tipping site.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION
OF AREA.

Public Health Acts.

Houses.....	186
Other premises.....	34
Housing Inspections.....	42
Infectious Diseases.....	0
Disinfestation.....	4
Markets.....	48
Factories.....	16
Food inspections:-	
Meat Inspection.....	192
Cafes.....	23
Ice Cream premises.....	18
Grocers.....	23
Butchers.....	17
Bakeries.....	7
Fried Fish.....	4
General.....	72

PREMISES.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Number of:- Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	47	11	2	Nil
(ii)Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	5	5	-	-
(iii)Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforces by the Local Authority. (excluding out-workers' premises).....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL.....	52	16	2	Nil

Number of Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars.	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Part Vlll of the Act.

OUTWORKERS.	Number of Outworkers on List.
Wearing apparel..... (making etc.)	12
Curtains and furniture hangings.....	1

Sanitary Conveniences (S7)	Found	Remedied.
Defective.....	2	2

There were no instances of work in unwholesome premises.
No cases of default in sending lists to the Council or prosecutions for failure to supply lists occurred.

Action taken under Acts of Parliament.

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of Informal Notices served	24
Number of Informal Notices complied with	20
Number of Statutory Notices served	1
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	1

(b) HOUSING ACTS.

Number of Statutory Notices served	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	Nil

(c)

Number of Unfit Houses closed	7
Number of Unfit Houses demolished	3

(d) FACTORIES ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

Number of Informal Notices served	2
Number of Informal Notices complied with	2
Number of Formal Notices served	Nil
Number of Formal Notices complied with	Nil

RODENT CONTROL

Total number of visits made by Rodent Control Officer	526
Number of premises surveyed on notification	120
Number of premises surveyed under Act	316
Number of premises found to be infested with rats	33
Number of premises found to be infested with mice	24
Number of premises found to be infested with rats and mice	24

A large number of complaints were received from the Public of wasps nests and ant infestations. All these were effectively dealt with by the Pests Officer.